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SHONIBARE
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G.A.S. Critical Writing Workshop

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Background

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation, established in 2019 by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE, is a non-profit organisation that operates residencies and public programmes across two sites: one in the vibrant city of Lagos and another on a rural working farm in Ijebu, Ogun State. G.A.S. Foundation offers multidisciplinary artists, researchers, cultural workers, and curators from around the world residencies of up to three months in its live/work spaces.

Yinka's vision for the foundation is to foster the development of new work and ideas, promote cultural understanding, and dismantle traditional barriers of privilege. This is achieved by creating access to education, building networks, and developing a resilient cultural infrastructure that supports the next generation. The foundation achieves this through residencies, educational programmes, and professional development opportunities in Nigeria.

Since launching its residencies in May 2022 G.A.S. Foundation has hosted a diverse array of residents, including emerging to established artists, architects, curators, archivists, and researchers amongst others. In the UK, the Yinka Shonibare Foundation fundraises, establishes international partnerships, and provides strategic oversight to G.A.S. Foundation. Both entities are governed by a board of trustees chaired by Yinka Shonibare CBE.

Further reading: www.guestartistspace.com



About the G.A.S. Critical Writing Workshop

The critical writing workshop is a pilot initiative developed by G.A.S. Foundation to support the professional and critical development of emerging local art writers, researchers, and cultural practitioners. This edition will explore critical art writing practices while examining how writing can function as a tool for activism, encouraging readers to ask questions, challenge dominant narratives, and engage more deeply with the social and political contexts that shape contemporary art.

Structured as a three-day intensive programme, the workshop will take place at G.A.S. Lagos from **25th - 27th March 2026** and will provide practical training for six emerging participants. Through a series of workshops, readings, and lectures led by current resident Olutomi Kassim, in collaboration with other industry professionals, participants will develop essential writing skills for navigating and contributing impactful and thought-provoking contemporary art discourse.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Across the three-day intensive, participants will:

- Explore critical art writing as a tool for activism, examining how writing can question dominant narratives and shape public discourse around Nigerian art.
- Develop a clear argument, title, and short critical text on a chosen aspect of Nigerian art and activism.
- Learn how to situate their writing within relevant scholarly and cultural debates.
- Gain practical tools into art-historical research methods grounded in Nigerian epistemologies, drawing on thinkers Chinweizu Ibekwe and Wole Soyinka.
- Engage in guided writing exercises, group discussions, and peer feedback sessions.
- Produce a 1,000 word draft article or structured outline that can be further developed for publication.

Selected writing may be considered for publication (with the participant's consent) in *Business Today, Nigeria*, published by **BusinessDay Media Limited**.



Application Guidelines

Applications for the critical writing workshop are open to **emerging and early-career** art writers, researchers and cultural practitioners based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Emerging and early-career applicant for the purpose of this call can be defined as someone who has established a dedicated writing practice but is still in the early stages of their professional development. They may have completed formal or informal training, have published writings in exhibitions, publications or projects, and started building a public presence. However, they may not yet have gained widespread recognition, received major institutional support, or achieved significant commercial success.

An art writer, researcher, and cultural practitioner critically engage with artistic practices and cultural movements through creation, research, analysis, and written interpretation. Their work may focus on visual art, performance, or other creative forms, providing insights that help audiences understand the ideas, histories, and contexts shaping contemporary and historical art. They produce content for magazines, websites, exhibition catalogues, and other media, offering critiques, reviews, interviews, or historical commentary. They may work independently as freelancers or be employed by publications, museums, or galleries.

As part of the application process, candidates will be asked to:

- Explain **why they are interested in participating in** the critical writing workshop.
- Describe **how the programme could support their growth** as a writer.
- Share what they **hope to learn or gain** from the experience.



Eligibility

Applicants must be:

- **Living in Lagos, Nigeria** or its environs. We are unable to provide programme participants with accommodation at G.A.S. Lagos.
- **An art writer, researcher, and cultural practitioner.** For the purposes of this open call, this is defined as a professional who researches, analyses and critiques various topics within the art, and this is not limited to visual arts, performance arts and cultural movements. Applicants may be artists or graduate students studying in the arts.
- **An early career/emerging practitioner.** This is defined as someone who has established a dedicated writing practice but is still in the early stages of their professional development. This includes individuals who have completed formal or informal training, has published writings in exhibitions, publications or projects, and started building a public presence. However, they may not yet have gained widespread recognition, received major institutional support, or achieved significant commercial success.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they **meet the application guidelines.**
- Able to **fully complete the application form** and supply an up-to-date CV and writing samples.
- **Available to participate** in the three-day intensive, held at G.A.S. Lagos from **25th - 27th March 2026**



Application Form, Timeline & Award

Eligible individuals wishing to apply for this opportunity should complete the following application form:

<https://zfrmz.eu/cq2sedR6v14vnlwSd525>

Deadline for Applications: Sunday 22nd March 2026

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ 18th March 2026 | Applications open |
| ■ 22nd March 2026 | Applications close |
| ■ 23rd March 2026 | Participants are selected |

CRITICAL WRITING WORKSHOP AWARD

Six participants will receive the following:

- Full access to the three-day programme.
- A hot meal (lunch), drinks and snacks on each day of the programme.
- A #50,000 allowance to cover transport costs/materials to support participation



About the Buildings: G.A.S. Lagos

The first G.A.S. residency building located in Oniru, Lagos is a modern, brutalist-inspired structure that wraps around a central courtyard. In 2022, G.A.S. began populating its library archive after receiving a donation from Professor John Picton and Sue Picton of a lifelong personal collection, consisting of around 1500 volumes. The donated books cover topics including Sub-Saharan African art, history, and archaeology, as well as African American and Black British arts. Collected over several decades, they are an invaluable resource for scholars, artists, and researchers interested in the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Africa.

On the ground floor residents will find an open plan shared studio/event/exhibition space, a portion of the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive, the G.A.S. staff office, an event kitchen and a small staff studio apartment. The first floor includes a shared kitchen and utilities room, three double en-suite residency bedrooms, the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive and a small outdoor terrace. G.A.S. staff are on-site Monday to Friday to support residents' needs, the building includes 24/7 security and residents have access to shared use of the G.A.S. driver and security on weekdays.



About the Buildings: G.A.S. Farm House

The second residency building sits on the lush 54-acre Ecology Green Farm in the village of Ikise, Ijebu Ode. The farm produces crops ranging from cassava and cashew to peppers and maize. The building includes one ensuite double bedroom and two double bedrooms with a shared bathroom, studio/work space, and an open plan kitchen/living room. A walled garden surrounds the building and an exterior 'wet' workshop was constructed in 2023 to support residents wanting to undertake larger scale projects.

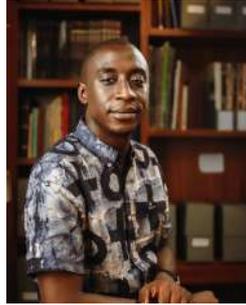
The G.A.S. Farm House supports residencies with a focus on the arts, science, ecology, agriculture, and research and was created with sustainable infrastructure and food security for the local community in mind. The build stayed true to the farm's guiding 'sustainability first' ethos by only using local materials for construction including 40,000 bricks made from soil dug up for the foundations.



G.A.S. Team and Board



Moni Aisida
Executive Director



Adekunle Adeboye
Residency and Operations
Manager



Tomiwa Adegbola
Finance Officer



Catherine Bardi
Communications and Events
Coordinator



Funmilola Ogunshina
Farm Residency Coordinator

The G.A.S. team are on site Monday to Friday to support the needs of residents and help with booking trips and visits, organising meetings, accessing the library and delivering events and activations.



Yinka Shonibare CBE
Founder and Chair



Bimpe Nkontchou
Trustee



Tokini Peterside-Schwebig
Trustee



Niyi Adenubi
Trustee



Temitayo Ogunbiyi
Trustee



Ugoma Ebilah
Trustee

FAQs

How many people will be selected to participate in the Critical Writing Workshop?

Six emerging art writers, researchers and cultural practitioners will be selected to participate in the programme.

How long is the programme?

The programme will run from **Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th March 2026** with sessions taking place every day from 10am to 5pm.

Is accommodation provided for participants?

No, accommodation is not provided for programme participants. Applicants must be based in Lagos, Nigeria, or its surrounding areas to be eligible for the programme and will need to commute to G.A.S. Lagos located at **9B Hakeem Dickson Drive, Off T.F. Kuboye Road, Oniru, Lagos** to attend the sessions.

Can I apply if I don't have a formal art education?

Yes! Formal training is not a requirement. The programme is open to art writers, researchers, and cultural practitioners who have developed a dedicated practice, whether through formal or informal education, self-study, or hands-on experience.

Will I receive stipend during this programme?

While the programme does not provide a formal stipend, selected participants will receive ₦50,000 allowance to support transport costs and materials during the workshop.

Can I attend if I am unavailable for any part of the three-day programme?

No, applicants must be available to participate fully in the three-day intensive from **25th until 27th March 2026**. This is crucial to ensuring that all participants receive the full benefit of the programme.

Are you able to support and accommodate applicants with access needs?

G.A.S. Foundation's Accessibility Policy can be viewed [HERE](#). Applicants requiring further access information or assistance relating to both the programme and application process should contact catherine@guestartistsspace.com.